ket No.: 197748US0PCT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

E APPLICATION OF:

Michinobu NAKAMURA, et al.

: EXAMINER: AFREMOVA

SERIAL NO.: 09/674,280

FILED: DECEMBER 21, 2000

: APR 2 4 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651/ECH CENTER 1600/2900

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PROTEIN HYDROLYZATE

## AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated October 21, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

## IN THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims have been reproduced hereinbelow. Please amend the claims as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

- 7. (Twice Amended) A method for producing hydrolyzed protein by subjecting a vegetable protein material containing saccharides to enzymatic hydrolysis, comprising:
- (1) conducting cultivation of a koji mold in a submerged culture fermenter-type reaction vessel to obtain a fungal culture;
- (2) mixing a dispersion of said vegetable protein material with said fungal culture to obtain a mixture; and